expansion/modernization of existing food processing units in Punjab in the sector of bakery products, fruits & vegetable processing, milk processing, grain milling are at various stages of processing. Consequent on decentralization of processing and disbursement of grant under the scheme through banks and financial institutions, the pending applications have been sent to the concerned banks from which the units have taken term loan for sanction and disbursement of grant under the scheme. Necessary funds are also being provided to the banks for disbursement of grant to these units depending on the availability of the funds. Apart from this, the paucity of funds under the scheme and deficiency in documents resulted in delay in clearing the proposals. The Ministry has been taking initiatives in association with the Nodal Officers of the Focal Point Bank/Financial Institutions regularly to send the complete documents to expedite the sanction of pending proposals.

Food processing projects in Andhra Pradesh

917. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of each ongoing food processing project/programme in Andhra Pradesh under Central schemes;

(b) the total number of farmers benefited by these projects/programmes; and

(c) the details of the new food processing units proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Ministry has approved three proposals in Andhra Pradesh for financial assistance under Infrastructure Development Scheme i.e. (i) one Food Park project, sanctioned in 2000-01 at Kuppam, Distt. Chittoor for which an amount of Rs. 2.00 crores has been released in two installments to the implementing agency i.e. Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd., (ii) one Mega Food Park projects was sanctioned in 2008 at Chittoor for which an amount of Rs.5.00 crore has been released to implementing agency namely, Srini Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd. and (iii) one proposal for setting up of modern abattoir to Greater. Hyderabad Municipal Corporation for which an amount of Rs. 1.48 crore has been released as 1st installment.

(b) It is expected that more than 25-30 thousand farmers have directly or indirectly benefited under these schemes.

(c) As food processing industries are both in the organized and unorganised sectors, information on total number of food processing industries established in the States and details such as those which are in working condition, the number of units in the private/public sector, etc. are not centrally maintained in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Proposals for food processing units in Andhra Pradesh

918. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state: